Mrs. Dubisson Leaves Estate Of $50,000

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(SNS)-Mrs. Lula Dubisson, the wife of D. J. Dubisson, left an estate, which is valued at $50,000. This was an estimate as given by the office of Pulaski County Probate Court.

Mrs. Dubisson for a number of years was the head of the Ladies Department of the Pythians of Arkansas and the Grand Secretary of the Royal Circle of Friends of Arkansas.

She owned real estate property in Little Rock, Forrest City, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Chicago, and other cities. Her personal belonging such as jewelry, linens, wearing apparel, furniture and silverware were left to her sister, Mrs. J. E. Burke of Forrest City. All of her real estate in Chicago was left to her husband, Mrs. Burke, a brother, Robert J. Williams of Philadelphia, Pa., and a nephew, D. J. Williams of Chicago to be shared equally.

She asked that her real estate in Little Rock, Tulsa, Forrest City and Madison, Arkansas be set up as a trust and the income from it to be paid semi-annually to her husband, her brother, her sister, and her nephew.

She left $1.00 to each of her nieces, Mrs. Louse W. Richey and Cora Mae Richey of Chicago. Her family home place in Forrest City, is to be left intact for the use of her relatives living there.

$50,000 Estate Left by Undertaker's Widow

PULASKI, Ark. (ANP)— Property estimated at $50,000 was left by Mrs. Lula Dubisson, 75, who died Feb. 27, according to her will probated here last week. She was the widow of D. J. Dubisson, owner of the Dubisson Undertaking Company.

Beneficiaries are her sister, Mrs. Thelma W. Burke of Little Rock, Ark.; her brother-in-law, Mr. Burke; her brother, Robert J. Williams of Philadelphia; and a nephew, D. J. Williams of Chicago. Two nieces were left $1 each.

Leaves $50,000 Estate to Heirs

PULASKI, Ark. (ANP) — Real and personal property estimated at $50,000 was willed by Mrs. Lula Dubisson, 75, who died Feb. 27, according to the office of the probate clerk here last week. Mrs. Dubisson was the widow of D. J. Dubisson, 77-year-old owner of Dubisson Undertaking Company.

For Medical Education

24-Year-Old Mother, Howard U. Graduate, Is Willed $18,000

37 Calif

PITTSBURG, Calif.—Medical studies, which one day may make her a great physician and surgeon, were assured recently for a Pittsburg girl—because of a friend.

Scholastic honors already have come to Samuella Austin Belcher, 24, who, this year, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Howard University in Washington, D. C.

Strangely, a short time before that honor was being given to the girl, funeral services were held in Quincy, Plumas County, for the friend who helped make it possible.

With his death, Natalie (Gus) Tachelli, 71, made the final gesture of kindness.

Feature

His will directed that his life's savings go to the girl, so that her dreams could become a reality.

Carefully "Gus" had saved during the years he had worked as a lumber piler for the Quincy Lumber Company. His estate totals nearly $18,500.

The friendship of Tachelli and the Austin family actually began thirty years ago, when the girl's parents, Samuel and Josephine Austin, lived next door to the Italian workman at Standard, Tuolumne County.

Sat. 7-1-50

The Italian immigrant was a bachelor and he soon became close friends with the Austins, taking meals with them, while Mrs. Austin looked after his clothes.

When Samuella was born, Tachelli was as proud as the father. According to the Austins, he loved the little girl very much.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

In 1927, when the Austins moved to Quincy, he followed and lived near by. Sixteen years ago, they moved again to Pittsburg, where they live now at 172 West Third Street. Austin is employed by Dow Chemical Company. His wife worked for five years at the Port Chicago Naval Base.

Although he remained at his job in Sloat, near Quincy, Tachelli kept a close contact with the Austin family and visited them every Christmas.

Years earlier he had arranged to send Samuella to school in Oroville, where she received her elementary instruction.

Samuella completed her school work in Pittsburg, attending junior high and Pittsburg High School, graduating with honors in 1946.

That fall, Samuella enrolled at Howard University and began her pre-medical course.

Always Tachelli has been there to help—sending $10 to $100 whenever he thought the girl could use a little assistance.

Three years ago Samuella was married to John Belcher, a veteran, also attending Howard University and they now have one child. He received his degree as an electrical engineer while his wife was receiving her B.A.

But still ahead of Samuella are three years work at the Howard Medical School and two years of internship.

Pride was very strong in Tachelli when he thought of what the girl had accomplished. But he never had a chance to read the engraved announcement which invited him to attend the graduation exercises.

When he didn't appear for work the constable and coroner-sheriff investigated. They found him dead of a heart attack in his cabin. In an old fashioned purse sewed into his clothing was $2,500. Two bank books showed deposits of over $6,000 and $10,000.

The will, made out in 1942 by H. H. Donovan, then a Pittsburg attorney and now a superior judge, left his entire belongings to Samuella. The girl's mother was named executrix of the estate.

LEAVES $18,500 LEGACY TO STUDENT

Voice
Fri. 6-16-50

PITTSBURGH, Calif., June 12—Medical studies which one day may make her a great physician and surgeon, were assured today for a Pittsburg girl—because of a friend.

37

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Ex-Chauffeur Will Not Get Aged Wife's Estate

LOS ANGELES — Allen L. Woods, 28-year-old chauffeur, whose May-December marriage with his 90-year-old employer, Mrs. Adriana Eugenie Nicholson last year — four months before her death — created a sensation, will not share in her $20,000 estate.

The aged woman's will which was filed for probate last week in Superior Court provided that the entire estate go to the University of California and Stanford University, to be used for scholarships for worthy students.

Abandoned Fight

Filing of the will revealed that Mrs. Woods had executed a codicil to the document prior to the marriage, revoking a previous bequest of her home to her former chauffeur.

Woods started suit shortly after his wife's death to break the will but later abandoned the effort.

Mate Was Good Nurse

The couple said after their marriage that it was entered into because the bride wanted to leave her estate to Woods who "took care of her like a baby" for several years.

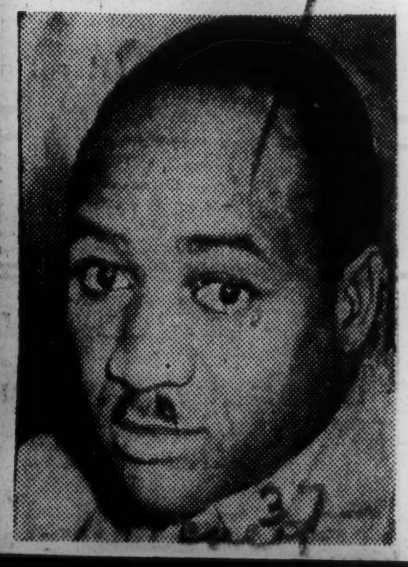
Serious opposition developed to the marriage, and the license bureau refused to issue a permit, complying only when the woman's attorney and an alienist testified that she was of sound mind.

Ministers Shunned Rites

But getting married also created difficulties because chapels in the downtown area refused to accommodate the couple, and ministers refused to administer the vows.

They were finally married by the Rev. Clarence Mitchell after Mrs. Charlotta A. Bass, local editor-publisher, intervened.

Left Penniless



chauffeur, who wed his 90-year old white employer, was not mentioned in her will filed in probate court last week. The entire estate of $20,000 was left to the University of California and Stanford University.

Concert Singer Puts in Her Claim

Fabulous Gold Mine May Belong to Negro

LOS ANGELES—Has the legendary "Lost Dutchman" gold mine been found or is Celeste Maria Jones, Negro-Indian concert singer, merely seeking publicity?

That's the big question being asked around the country this week as news leaked out in Washington, D. C., that the singer had sought information from the Interior Department as to how she could lay claim to the fabulous long lost mine which she claims is on her property in Arizona.

Our Los Angeles correspondent can't find Miss Jones, and folks say she is as hard to locate as the "Lost Dutchman," but our Washington correspondent reports that the Department of Interior has been contacted, and as far as they know, the claim is just a publicity stunt. They state Miss Jones had contacted them, claiming her property is located in the Superstition Mountains, 90 per cent of which is Navajo Indian reservation.

C. E. Johnson, her manager, reluctantly disclosed that the gold mine is on property which came to her "through family connection."

The Interior Department says "any number of discoveries" have been received . . . about one hundred a week, in fact. Several claimed to be the Lost Dutchman mine. "We have sent Miss Jones papers issued to prospectors. If she has really found it, well, she gets the benefit," they said.

Jury Awards Niece $54,000

Jacksonville Woman Asked Entire $250,000

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. —(ANP) —Court litigation over the estate of the late Mrs. Pauline Pratt was ended here last week when a Circuit court jury awarded $54,000 to Mrs. Wilhelmina Pratt Lizzmore, the dead woman's niece.

Mrs. Lizzmore, who had originally filed suit for the entire estate, made claims on the basis of what she testified was an oral agreement between her and her aunt. She reduced her claims when it was pointed out that in Florida real estate cannot be transferred verbally.

The Pratt estate was estimated to be worth $250,000, but much of it included real estate. Mrs. Pratt was the widow of Lawton L. Pratt, who founded a successful undertaking business.

Mrs. Lizzmore told the court that she had worked for more than 18 years as a key person in the operation of the business. She said Mrs. Pratt told her in 1944 that she would leave the estate to her.

Chief witness for Mrs. Lizzmore was Mrs. Elzadie Small who substantiated the plaintiff's statement about the oral agreement.

Family, Trustees In New Fight Over Walker Estate

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — (ANP) — A new fight over the estate and terms of the fabulous Mme. C. J. Walker estate flared up here last week when decendants of Mme. Walker filed suit against Mme. C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company trustees.

Plaintiffs in the suit asked for complete control of the well-known beauty products firm and its property plus an accounting of all funds and property rights handled by the trustees of the company during the past 30 years.

Suit was filed by Marion R. Perry, husband of the late Mae Waker Perry, adopted daughter of Mme. Walker's daughter, Miss A'Lelia Walker Kennedy; his daughter, A'Lelia Mae Perry, and his wife's son by another marriage, Walker Gordon Jackson.

They claim that they are the only rightful heirs to the estate parlayed by Mrs. Sarah Walker (Mme. Walker) from a cosmetics selling enterprise to a value at one time of more than a million dollars.

DEFENDANTS

Named as defendants are: Robert Lee Brokenburr, attorney, general manager of the company:

Mrs. Violet D. Reynolds, veteran official of the Walker company; Willard B. Ransom, attorney, and assistant manager of the company; F. E. DeFrantz, executive secretary, Senate Avenue YMCA; Mrs. Susan Knox ,Democratic party leader; Mrs. Nettie L. Ransom, widow of the late F. B. Ransom, for years head of the Walker company; James E. Curtis, business man, and Mrs. A'Lelia Ransom Nelson, daughter of the late F. B. Ransom, and her daughter, Lynn Nelson.

Speaking for the defendants, Brokenburr issued the following statement to the press:

"We are not going to try our case in the newspapers. However we will say this:

"The wills and the trusts set up therein are valid and in full force and effect. We will meet every charge against us . . . We assert that they are absolutely false."

Wealthy New Orleans Man Wills Servants Handsome Legacies

NEW ORLEANS — (ANP) — A will probated in civil district court here last week disclosed that two Negro servants of a wealthy white business man and race horse owner, had been remembered by him.

The deceased Louis deLaTour left to his "faithful servant" Mrs. Rebecca Butler the sum of $5,000, and to his other "faithful servant," Mrs. Lulu Parker, the sum of $2,500.

Gifts to the "faithful" servants, according to court records of deceased white persons for whom Negroes have worked all their lives, are far in excess to the usual bequeaths which rarely exceed $1500.

Rich New Orleans Man Wills 2 Negro Servants $7,500.00

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Legality of Wedding to Tell Story

Riches in Oil Hinge On Slave Marriage

(From Courier Louisiana Bureau)

NEW ORLEANS—Whether or not the marriage of slaves was valid may determine ownership of two-thirds of forty acres of Richland Parish oil lands. The Louisiana State Supreme Court, two weeks ago, granted a rehearing on part of a land recovery suit brought by Rachel and John Carter, who claim to be the legitimate heirs of two-thirds of a piece of property sold by their brother, Anderson Carter, in 1921. Oil was later found on the land.

The defendant in the suit is Zelma McEacharn Dollerhide and other members of her family, purchasers of the property.

SOLD FOR $2,800

The valuable property, formerly owned by the Carters' father, Alvin Carter, was acquired by Anderson Carter by paying tax arrears, court records showed. It was sold by Anderson Carter for $2,800 in 1921 to Mrs. Dollerhide and members of her family.

Judge C. J. Carter, of the Richland Parish Civil Court, ruled in 1946 that the plaintiffs had not proven their case. The Supreme Court, two weeks ago, ordered a rehearing to determine whether the slave marriage of Alvin Carter and Martha King, the plaintiffs' parents, was legal.

DID NOT REWED

The Carters said their parents were married while slaves some time before 1864 but that they were not rewed after they were freed. The Supreme Court also ordered that the hearing determine whether the statute of limitations for bringing the land suit into court had expired.

Oldtime residents, asked about slave marriages, said that in some sections of Louisiana the "official marriage ceremony" for slaves consisted in both parties "stepping over a broom" laid on the ground by their master.

— "FORTIETH IN '50" —

Niece, White Man in Suit for Sport Figure's Estate

NEW ORLEANS (ANP)—What appears to be a fight to a finish looms here over the estate of the late Juliette Washington, who died Oct. 9, and whose holdings and personal effects are being sought by Bert Vargo, white, with whom the woman was accused of living in "concubinage" with for a number of years.

A niece of the deceased, however, Mrs. Mary Washington Dawson, of Baton Rouge, La., has petitioned the courts through her attorneys asking that Vargo be denied the property asked for and that she be appointed executrix instead.

Mrs. Dawson alleges in her petition that the deceased and Vargo were "living in notorious concubinage" and that he is incapable of inheriting the estate belonging to the dead relative, according to Louisiana law.

House Known to Police

Police records indicate the Conti House, where the Washington woman lived, has flourished as a prostitute's hovel for more than 32 years. She purchased the home in 1926 for $15,000, and ever since has maintaind a good-time place for love seekers.

The woman, who appears now to have been a close rival to the infamous Lulu White of Basin St. fame here, also has something in common with that departed siren. In that both of them consorted with white men.

Lulu White made a fortune, only to let pimps of the opposite race hoodwink her out of it. She built a marble palace here which was razed just this year. People from near and far came to witness the building's demolishing, and left with a souvenir of some kind for memory's sake.

Romance of Long Standing

The Washington woman was somewhat more fortunate than Lulu, in that the former did not die broke. Neither did she at anytime during the past three decades have to eat feed with the chickens.

It is said that she met Vargo when he was quite young, just from the country, and remained with him until she died. The Washington woman on one occasion was charged with living in concubinage with a white man, according to police records.

Unlike Lulu White's house, however, there were no colored prostitutes in the Washington house. It was a strictly white setup, with colored employees.

The funeral of the bawdy house's mistress was held in a Baptist Church and she was buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 3., wherein are the remains of such one-time idols as Thommy Lafon and Walter L. "Cap" Cohen.

Vargo attended the funeral, it is said, and was observed weeping.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF FABULOUS ECCENTRIC McDONOGH RECALLS VAST LAND BUYS HERE

By HARNETT T. KANE

(Author of "Pathway to the Stars," new novel on the life of John McDonogh.)

How a vast property, within the limits of the old Mississippi of colonial and later days, helped change the educational history of neighboring Louisiana, may be remembered this week with the hundredth anniversary of the death of the Old South's greatest landowner.

When John McDonogh, fabulous eccentric of New Orleans, decided to try a land gamble, he took a grand chance, the chance of a lifetime. It almost ruined him; for all the rest of his life it hung over him like the shadow of a folly.

But at the end it was the most brilliant investment of a man famous for wise investments. For the land in the old "Florida parishes" made up a great hunk of John McDonogh's fantastic state; and from it came a large part of the philanthropic fund that did so much for the school systems of New Orleans and Baltimore.

Yet John McDonogh himself never knew how handsomely he had chosen when he turned to Mississippi for his splurge. The controversy that centered about the property went on and after his death, and 25 years were to pass before it was settled in favor of his estate.

When the McDonogh side at last was upheld, families were impoverished, estates destroyed, life changed for hundreds. But the wishes of the man of mystery were upheld, and, as a result, tens of thousands of children received the benefit of public education.

All of John McDonogh's strange life is a story of controversy. The clash over lands in the West Florida area was only one phase of a career of long-continued differences with the world around him.

McDonogh came to the Deep South from Baltimore as a youth of twenty, a rigid Puritan who had scant sympathy with the happy, easy-going Orleanians, with the French and Spanish background. He went at once into trading and landbuying with planters of the Mississippi coast. His dealings extended up the river to Natchez, Vicksburg, old Washington, and ventually, by 1840 or so, to Jackson and its vicinity.

Still, the man never sympathized with his adopted community. McDonogh, of Scotch-Irish parentage, looked at New Orleans of the ritous waterfront, the plantation life of great parties and nightly festivities—and felt only disapproval. He made occasional trips up the Mississippi to Natchez and other points along the river, but the Natchez manner had no appeal for him.

For a time, it seems, John McDonogh forced himself to get along socially with some of the French-Spanish Orleans. Yet his heart was not in it, and after several disappointments, in love and other relations, John McDonogh turned his back on the world. A bachelor as well as a Puritan, he became a kind of symbol of dissent in a sophisticated metropolis.

Curiously, however, he had a faith in New Orleans and the river country greater than that of the smiling opera-goers, the duellists who paraded along Royal street. New Orleans, he said, had to grow, spread in every direction; and he would be there to profit when it did.

For a time he had been a youth in restless search of a destiny. Now he found it; he gave up his life to his land. He acquired holdings that others called worthless, buying them for almost nothing—a rear lot, ground at a swamp edge, badly-drained acres behind plantations in the area below Natchez and other river areas.

Many thought him crazy when he sank $75,000 (a much larger amount than the figure represents in these days of inflated values) in West Florida lands. This was, in fact, the greatest speculation in a life of speculation. The date was 1803. For the rest of his days, till 1850, McDonogh fought over the property, and many times he almost agreed with his critics, that this had been a colossal mistake.

When the United States bought Louisiana from France, Americans claimed it included West Florida. Spain, which held the section at the time, said no. About then John McDonogh and friends made heavy purchases, and some, at least, did it on the chance that the American government would recognize the sales made by the Spaniards in the disputed section.

It remained heavily disputed for years, until the United States moved in, seizing part, and getting the rest by purchase. And now, of course, McDonogh might have expected that his claims would be honored?

They would not be, at least for generations. Year after year the eccentric landowner went to Congress, to court, to government officials. Bills were introduced in one House, then another; agents were sent to Washington, among them the celebrated Reuben Kemper, whose role in the West Florida uprising was a phenomenal one. At one time McDonogh and his friends even had an agent who went to Spain, to look into confidential diplomatic records.

Meanwhile settlers were moving to McDonogh's land and putting up houses and other improvements to strengthen their claims to it. McDonogh, furious, sometimes rejected them. Again he could only sigh and hope for better fortune in future. Henry Clay, one-time Secretary of State, became involved, as did John Calhoun. Several times the matter almost reached a favorable settlement; but then certain politicians, anxious to get home, adjourned Congress, and everything was lost.

Then, at a crucial hour, the Supreme court took up the case—and said it had no jurisdiction. For any other man, the fight would have been over. Not, however, for John McDonogh. As he said: "I am now so used to disappointment of this kind, after 30 years' labor, that patience, my motto, is put to no trial."

By now, in this and other matters, the mold of the man's life had well hardened. He had become a recluse, living in a "box of a house," a half-finished residence across the river from New Orleans; he had no guests, no time for frivolities. He wore the clothes of his youth, and the unfriendly said that it was because he wanted to save the price of a new suit.

One day he felt ill and hailed a horse-drawn street car. When he was seen to pay a dime fare, a stir ran through the onlookers. The next day the newspapers carried a story about the notable event. When that skinflint shelled out two nickels, it was news!

And again the city chuckled. Old McDonogh seldom used the ferry to cross the river. It was some distance from his plantation, and he had his servant row him daily back and forth. New Orleans was sure he did it that way to save another dime. One day another newspaper ran a cartoon showing the miser, in worn, patched attire, being rowed over by a tattered slave—and the caption read "Saved For The Lawyers."

So the town jibed. But McDonogh, through it all, felt a growing hurt. He had a secret, several secrets in his life. Long ago he had made up his mind; he was saving for a reason, a purpose—several, in fact. First, he had a plan, a vast and ambitious one, for ending slavery in America by having the slaves earn their freedom and return to Africa. He sent back scores of his own bondsmen in this way, and first quietly, then openly, he urged national officials to adopt it.

For a time McDonogh's plan drew a certain attention. National figures grew interested; Henry Clay said kind words about it, and some men declared they would follow it. In the bitterness leading to the 1860's, however, it was forgotten. Yet McDonogh himself would never quite give it up.

Meanwhile he had another and greater hope, one that became the mainspring of his strange life. He was going to use his "mountain of wealth," his vast means, to provide New Orleans, perhaps the rest of the South, perhaps America, with a new, broader system of public education, to which every child would be entitled.

Though the city had said that the man's veins ran only lemon juice, records show that quietly he educated child after child, guided and counseled them in a way that sounds highly modern. He considered education the hope of the nation; and years before he died he set up a fantastically-detailed will—a secret one—giving the bulk of his property for that purpose.

And by now the property had grown enormously. He was the greatest landowner of the South. His land encircled New Orleans, reached up river and down, including all of that West Florida property. Had it remained intact, as he tried to keep it by provisions extending on after his death, it would have been the "greatest mountain of wealth" in the world.

Then he died, and the people around him finally learned his last purpose—that scheme of "universal education." Overnight New Orleans regretted its harshness, those words of derision. One day, just before he fell sick, the tired old man had walked on the street, and children had pointed and sneered at him as a crazy miser. His heart had hurt. In his will he had made a request that sometimes the children place a few flowers in his memory.

Ever since then New Orleans has been making amends. Now, at last, it understood and felt more kindly toward McDonogh, recognizing him as the great figure that he was. Soon after his funeral the newspaper that had run the satiric cartoon, showing him being rowed over the river to save a dime, repeated the drawing with one change.

In the caption, "Saved for the Lawyers," it scratched out the words "Lawyers" and substituted "The Poor."

The West Florida dispute went on and on after his death. One Supreme court succeeded another, and Congress came and went, until, in 1874, the highest court agreed to go into the matter, and ruled in McDonogh's favor. Once again he had won, from the grave.

And for years the children of New Orleans have gone annually to his statue, to do the small act he asked. In his memory tens of thousands place flowers to honor the man who did so much, unostentatiously, even secretly, for them.

New Orleans, too, remembers other stories, the stories that older Creoles told about McDonogh's unhappy love affairs. The first, the city has long believed, was with the great Creole belle of her day, the other with a girl from Baltimore who became a nun. In the old bachelor's desk his few friends found a woman's golden slipper, faded with the years, with a faint fragrance of another secret.

Lewis Estate at $150,000

Bequests to Family Not Overly-Large

NEW ORLEANS—The will of the late James Lewis, retired president of the People's Life Insurance Company, unearthed in a bank vault, revealed that his estate amounts to about $150,000, a sum smaller than his friends estimated at the time of his death the previous week.

The will set forth that all of the property was acquired through "hard work and sacrifice" while Mr. Lewis was employed by the Harry L. Laws Company, for which he worked 55 years.

The largest single bequest in the will was that of $2,000 to his sister, Mrs. Francis Baham, of Baton Rouge, who had been in New Orleans for about four months attending her brother during his illness.

Given Life Tenancy

It was asked that Mrs. Baham be permitted to occupy Lewis's two-story home at 2415 Canal St. for the rest of her life.

Other bequests in the will, dated March 5, 1945, were to:

Two neices whose names were not disclosed, $1000 each; Mrs. Eula Hardin Donasier, a diamond ring; the late Dr. J. J. Donasier a diamond scarf pin; $1000 each to 6 charitable institutions, including the St. James AME Church of which he was a member; and $1000 each to two children of his late brother, Joubert Lewis.

Named executors of the estate was H. Dabezies Sr., vice-president of a local bank; and Baldwin E. Allen, attorney, was named to probate the will.

2 Women Leave Total of $35,000

Retired Barber's Will Filed for Administration

$500 FOR HOSPITAL

Club Woman Bequeaths Amount to Provident

BALTIMORE

Two Baltimore women, one a retired barber and the other a well-known club woman, left estates totaling $35,000 which were admitted to Orphans Court for administration this week.

The $15,000 estate of Mrs. Lizzie Raynor who died at her home, 1432 Orleans St. on Jan. 18, will be administered by U. Theodore Hayes and Ernest Perkins, attorneys. Mrs. Raynor, a barber, retired from that business several years ago. She was 62 at the time of her death.

$500 for Hospital

Mrs. Annie Hitchens, well-known club woman, who died on Sept. 17, 1949, left an estimated estate of $20,314.10, which is being administered by her sister, Mrs. Ruth Greene of Norfolk, Va., a niece, Mrs. Lucille Jenkins of Philadelphia, and Dr. A. O. Reid of this city.

She directed through her will that her possessions be sold and the cash used to fill bequests including $500 to Provident Hospital of this city.

Other bequests included $1000 to the Baptist Home for the Aged, Norfolk, Va.; $300 to the Maryland Baptist Home for the Aged; $100 to the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA, Norfolk; $300 to the Community Hospital, Norfolk; $250 to the Boy Scouts Foundation; and stock in the Equitable Trust Company to the Madison Street YWCA.

In the case of the stock, the income is to go to Mrs. Jenkins for life, when they will then be turned over to the local branch. Mrs. Hitchens also willed her sister, Mrs. Greene, $250, and Mrs. Jenkins, $250. Two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Nannie Greene and Mrs. Blanche Greene of Norfolk, will receive $100 each. Mrs. Clara Greene Childs of Philadelphia will receive $200; Basil Johnson of this city, $100; and Miss Julia E. Belle of Norfolk, $250.

The residue of the estate will go to Mrs. Greene and Mrs. Jenkins.

Diggs's Estate Valued at $50,000

BALTIMORE

A trio of trustees, including Mrs. Mary C. Scott, 2019 N. Bentalou St., and two attorneys, Manuel E. Lefko and Morris M. Caplan, will control the estate of the late Herbert Diggs, composed chiefly of the Diggs Motor Coach Company, for the next 10 years, his will disclosed this week.

The estate was estimated to be worth $50,000.

Mrs. Scott, secretary to Mr. Diggs, is the daughter of Mrs. Rachel F. Cooper, 1331 N. Mount St., at whose home Mr. Diggs was stabbed by one of his bus drivers, Robert Blake, on June 2, after the two had allegedly argued over two dollars pay. He later died at the Franklin Square Hospital.

The trustees, under the document, are given full power in the business, to increase capital, enter into any partnership, dispose of business, enterprise, or partnerships as they see fit, without application of approval of any court. They may sell, transfer, mortgage, borrow or lease, make contracts, settle and adjust claims.

Provisions for Sons

In the event of any trustee, all duties and powers devolve upon the surviving trustees or remaining trustee. Mrs. Scott and Messrs. Lefko and Caplan were made executors under the will, but the attorneys renounced their rights as executors, making Miss Scott and Jacob Blum, attorney, executors.

In the meantime the two sons of the deceased, Robert Diggs and Rerbert Diggs Jr., are to receive salaries of $100 per week provided they give their full time and services to the operation of the company. If they do not work with the company, each will receive $50 per week. This arrangement is to last for 10 years, after which the business and assets are to be turned over to the sons free and clear of the trust.

Mr. Diggs's will provided that should an emergency affecting the sons arise, the trustees are empowered to pay over to the sons such sums out the principal of the estate as the trustees deem advisable to provide for such needs. The trustees, however, are to be sole judge in determining when such emergency exists.

Mrs. Hitchens Wills $1,400 To Norfolk Institutions

NORFOLK — $1,400 was left to three local institutions under the will of the late Mrs. Anne Elizabeth Tucker Hitchens, of Baltimore, Md.

The largest single benefactor was the First Baptist Church Home for the Aged with a gift of $1,000. The Norfolk Community Hospital received $300, while the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA was given $100.

A sister, Miss Ruth E. Green of Norfolk, was one of the three executors of the will.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS benefiting from the estate were Provident Hospital, the YWCA, and the Methodist Old Folks Home of Baltimore.

Mrs. Hitchens, who was born in Norfolk, was an ardent churchwoman and social worker. Until her marriage in 1914, when she moved to Baltimore, she was for many years the financial secretary of First Baptist Church of this city. During those years she worked in the local Young Women's Christian Association, the Virginia Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and several other organizations.

She was a teacher in the S. C. Armstrong Public School of Norfolk, and in her Sunday school. In both these positions she made herself known by regular visitations in the homes of her pupils. Thousands came to know her as "Miss Annie."

MRS. ANNE E. T. HITCHENS

* * *

SHE WAS A graduate of Norfolk Mission College, for many years the city's only educational institution with classes beyond the seventh grade.

37 1950

HE LEFT $100,000 ESTATE:

Bishop's Widow Found in 'Filth and Squalor'

BALTIMORE

John Hurst 2nd appeared in Northwestern District police court on Saturday to explain why his 79-year-old grandmother is living in "filth and squalor."

Mr. Hurst is the grandson of the late AME Bishop John Hurst, who died in May, 1930, leaving an estate estimated in excess of $100,000.

Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte testified that when she went to the Hurst home, 1008 W. Lafayette Ave., she found the bishop's widow crawling on her hands and knees like a dog in filth and squalor.

She said that Mrs. Hurst appeared to have the mind of a two year-old child.

John Hurst 2nd is the only son of the late Dr. Benoni Price Hurst, son of the bishop. Dr. Hurst, an X-ray specialist and a medical school professor at Howard University, was paralyzed in 1935 and died a few years later.

Bishop Hurst, a native of Haiti, was educated at Wilberforce and after a successful pastorate in Baltimore, became financial secretary of the AME Church.

He became a bishop in 1912. His Lafayette Ave. home, now described as "filthy and squalid," was once one of the city's show places.

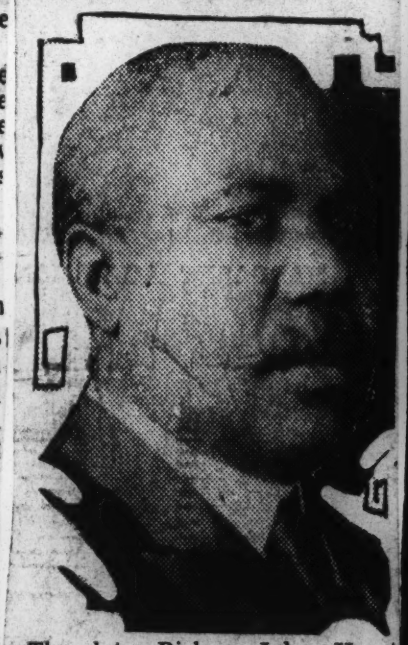
There, Bishop Hurst entertained church dignitaries and pastors with pretty, vivacious Mrs. Hurst presiding as a charming hostess.

Now in Convalescent Home

Following a conference between Mr. Hurst and Policewoman Whyte, it was decided to take Mrs. Hurst to a local convalescent home, for a month in the hope that in a desirable environment she may improve.

Mr. Hurst, who is 27, is a former student at Morgan State College. According to Mrs. Whyte, he is now enrolled at Howard University.

His Widow Found Living in Squalor



The late Bishop John Hurst who presided over AME areas in Florida and S.C., and who left a fortune estimated at $100,000. His widow was found living in squalor in Baltimore last week.

Maryland

"The Mind of a Two-Year-Old?"

Mrs. K. Bertha Hurst, widow of the wealthy AME bishop and hostess in their once palatial home liked to prepare Italian spaghetti for the bishop's guests. Monday, when found in filth and squalor, she was sent to a convalescent home.

Bishop Hurst's Widow Got Virtually Entire Estate

BALTIMORE

When Bishop John Hurst died on May 6, 1930, in the same house from which his aged widow was taken from 'pitiful' surroundings this week, he left practically his entire estate to her.

His will opened with the touching declaration that "My wife is earnestly requested not to wear any symbol of mourning for me. Her devotion to me and to all my interests has been attested to during our long and happy life together."

The estate at that time was valued at $38,700. It consisted of 11 pieces of city property, 20 acres on the Belair Rd., two lots in Riderwood near Washington, and a lot on Conduit Rd. in Washington.

In addition, there was a large number of shares of stock, most of which proved valueless in the end.

Left Insurance Shares

Only shares in the Afro-American Life Insurance Company of Florida, which brought $1000, and 40 shares in the Monumental City Bank, later merged with the Union Trust Company, and which, with the payment of $20, were exchanged for six shares of stock in the Union Trust Company, added to the estate.

Bishop Hurst willed the Lafayette Ave., home, its furnishings and two cars, and properties at 509, 413 and 517 Mosher St., 1808 McCulloh St., 337 Dolphin St., 1037 Harlem Ave., 1301 Division St., 1422 Mount St. and 1506 W. Franklin St., to his wife.

He left 1736 McCulloh St. in trust to his son, Dr. Benoni Price Hurst, who was directed to use the income until his grandson, John Hurst 2nd., was of high school age, when the income was to be used for the latter's education, and to be given to him outright five years after his graduation from college.

He also left $100 to his chauffeur, James E. Bond; and a sick room sacrament set, silk robe and a watch to a friend, the Rev. William H. Thomas of Washington.

Grandson Given Watch

A niece, Miss Anne Gillotte, of Port Au Prince, Haiti, received the homestead on that island, which he had purchased from heirs. The grandson also received a striking Swiss watch, w hich the bishop had made in Switzerland and which he highly prized.

The balance of the estate was to be divided equally between the widow and son. with both serving as executors. But as the stock, which composed the balance of the estate was of little value, Dr. Hurst's inheritance was of little value. So that when he died on July 1, 1944, he left an estate valued only at $2,727.03.

This did not include property at 1322 Q St., N.W., Washington, and a $120 ground rent issueing out of 1629 Madison Ave., Baltimore, jointly owned by Dr. Hurst and his wife, the former Mae Brandford.

The $2,929.03 and 125 shares of American Burglar Alarm and Messenger Company stock, then inventoried as worthless, were divided between Mrs. Mae Hurst, who received one-third, and the son, John Hurst 2nd., who received two-thirds. Mr. Hurst was executor of this estate.

Sent to Home

On Saturday, Mr. Hurst was summoned to Northwestern Police Station to explain why his grandmother Mrs. K. Bertha Hurst, 79, was found living under conditions which police described as "filth and squalor."

Policewoman Violet Hill Whyte testified that when she visited the bishop's once palatial home at 1008 W. Lafayette Ave., she found Mrs. Hurst "crawling on her hands and knees like a dog in filth and squalor."

Mrs. Whyte said, too, that the widow appeared to have the mind of a small child.

Following the hearing, an agreement was reached between Mr. Hurst and Mrs. Whyte which sent the widow to a Madison Ave., convalescent home for one month's care on a trial basis.

Richest Man In Town Is It's Only Negro Resident

Pilot Wood Nat. 8-12-50
Atlanta, Ga.

CHICAGO—The richest family in quiet little Whitehall, resort town near Grand Rapids and Muskegen, is the only Negro family living in the city of 2000. 37 Mich

The Brightwell family today owns real estate valued at $40,000; a filling station; the only taxi service in the town; trucking equipment valued at $20,000; an $80,000 frozen food storage locker plan; a grocery store and a 4-year government mail route contract which grosses them over $50,000 for the years.

When the Brightwells first came to Whitehall 35 years ago, they were broke. "We may have a penny of two saved up in a piggy bank," Tom brightwell, the 75-year-old head of the family. "But, we couldn't find the piggy bank."

Tom Brightwell's first job was a caretaker, but soon he was engaged in raising poultry and in doing odd trucking jobs with a Model T. Ford. Gradually, he expanded by buying real estate and soon he was on his way to the title of "richest family in town."

Key to the Brightwell success is the determination by all that if the whole family worked hard enough life would become more secure. Today, five of Brightwell's eight children have equal shares in these enterprises. None has encountered any racial prejudice in the community; in fact; two of the sons are married to white girls.

Brightwell refuses to reveal the extent of his fortune. "Maybe $200,000. Maybe $300,000. Maybe $400,000," he says.

The Brightwell family owns real estate valued at $40,000; a filling station; the only taxi service in town; trucking equipment valued at $20,000; an $80,000 frozen food storage locker plan; a grocery store and a 4-year government mail route contract which grosses them over $50,000 for the four years.

Jacksonville, Fla.

When the Brightwells first came to Whitehall 35 years ago, they were broke. "We may have had a penny or two saved up in a piggy bank". Tom Brightwell, the 75-year-old head of the family is quoted in Ebony as saying. "But we couldn't find the piggy bank".

Key to the Brightwell success is the determination by all that if the whole family worked hard enough, life would become more secure. Today, five of Brightwell's eight, children have equal shares in these enterprises.

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RICHEST MAN IN TOWN IS ITS ONLY NEGRO RESIDENT

Florida Tattler
37 Mich

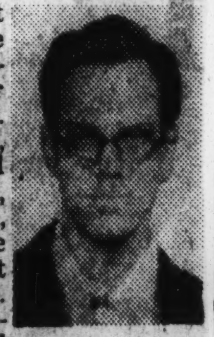
Chicago - The richest family in quiet little Whitehall, a resort town near Grand Rapids, is the only Negro family living in the city of 2,000. C.I.P. 21

Young Heir to McCoy Estate in Hiding; Matron's Father Bids for His Share

Attorney Lists Holdings at $50,000 Now; Death of Couple in Detroit Still Mystery

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Robert Bannarn, 20, presumed heir to the Detroit estate of Mrs. Fleetwood McCoy Jr., his white mother, has been hiding out here since word of his mother's death.

His attorney, Raymond Cannon, said he youth will file claim to the estate, first estimated to be as much as $3,000,000. Later word from Mrs. McCoy's brother, Don Martini, and Detroit attorney, Jefferson Jordan, indicates that the estate will not exceed $50,000. Bannarn's whereabouts remained as much a mystery as the death of his mother and her husband, who were found dead Oct. 7 aboard their 55-foot schooner at East Tawas, Mich.



Robert Bannarn

Cause Unknown

Cause of their deaths, officially unknown, presumably was leakage of carbon monoxide from a faulty refrigeragor.

Bannarn, born to Mrs. McCoy, 39, by Floyd Bannarn, Minneapolis, first of three colored husbands, first learned of the tragedy through news stories.

He was staying on a lake about 45 miles from here. His grandmother, Mrs. Lela Bannarn, with whom he has lived since 16 months old, rushed him to the Twin City. He immediately went into hiding.

No press representative was able to contact him, but persons who did described him as "extremely upset, even to the point of illness."

The youth did not attend his mother's funeral for several reasons, Cannon said. United Press, a wire service, said the youth was embittered by his birth to parents of a different race. Cannon said this was a lot of nonsense.

Not Bitter

Mrs. Bannarn also said the youth was not bitter. He had visited his mother in Detroit less than three years ago.

It is known, however, that young Bannarn was denied another Detroit visit in late August. His mother and step-father refused on the contention that the youth exploited them.

There were rumors of a fight over the estate, partially based on whether Mrs. McCoy or her husband died first. Jordan said such was unlikely, however, McCoy's father, Fleetwood McCoy Sr., prominent Chicago attorney, wants no controversy, said Jordan.

Changed His Name

In Hopkins, Minn., however, Earl P. Martin, Mrs. McCoy's father, said he didn't think Bannarn can prove he is his daughter's son. Martin, who changed his name from Martini to avoid union prejudice, is an international representative of the Iron Workers Union.

He said he had no use for his daughter, named Geraldine, because he did not believe in mixing the races.

However, he told the Minneapolis Tribune, "If they don't find her son. I guess I'm the heir." On being told that Bannarn had been found he said he still had a top-notch lawyer looking after his interests.

Mrs. McCoy's brother, Don Martini of Brainerd, Minn., went to the funeral. He said Geraldine would turn over in her grave if the old man got any of her money.

He said his father deserted the family when he was about 2 and Geraldine 5. Another brother was 6.

Don Martini said he did not know his sister's husband was colored until he reached Detroit for the funeral. He said he would not claim his sister's estate.

After leaving Bannarn, her first husband, Mrs. McCoy married Harold Scott, who later taught art in Milwaukee for 10 years. He then taught at Tuskegee Institute and now is presumed to be in Detroit.)

(Besides property in Detroit, Mrs. McCoy reportedly owns real estate in Milwaukee. Jordan said he knew of no such property. He said presumably she kept a safety deposit box but it had not been located.)

Cannon would not reveal what steps young Bannarn would take to obtain the estate. Jordan said McCoy Sr., would prefer to sit down and reach some agreement. Cannon said he could not say if his client would accept such an offer.

McCoy Estate Worth 300 G's

Socialite's Jobless Son Believed Heir

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn.—The 21 year-old unemployed son of Mrs. Fleetwood McCoy Jr., by a previous marriage, may inherit the estimated $300,000 estate left by the 39-year-old Detroit socialite who with her lawyer-husband was found dead aboard their $20,000 yacht two weeks ago.

The youngster is Robert Bannarn, who was the child of Mrs. McCoy by her first husband, Floyd Bannarn. He was left in the care of his paternal grandmother here when he was just 18 months old.

The grandmother, Mrs. Lela Bannarn, said the boy completed the sophomore year at North High School and has held part-time jobs since. He visited his mother in Detroit about two years ago, she said.

Various sources have indicated that real estate holdings may make the estate reach over $300,000, a far cry from first estimates of 3 million. However, Jefferson Jordan, Detroit lawyer, told the AFRO Wednesday it may not exceed $100,000.

Mr. Jordan, represented the estate until this week when Fleetwood McCoy Sr., Chicago lawyer, was named administrator. Through John Roxborough, he posted bond in Detroit courts on Wednesday.

Mr. Jordan said that under the law young Bannarn will inherit his mother's share of the joint holdings of the couple and McCoy's father will inherit his share. Neither left a will. Young Bannarn's interests are being looked after by Raymond Cannon. Minneapolis attorney.

The death of Mrs. McCoy, who was thought to be white but was known as colored in the East Coast social circles in which she moved with her 28-year-old third husband, brings to light her early background, which was unknown even to her intimates.

Records here now reveal that she was white and was born Geraldine Martini (her father later changed the name to Martin), the daughter of Earl P. Martin of Route 2, Hopkins, Minn., an international representative of the Iron Workers' Union who resides here, and who divorced her mother some years ago.

Soon after she graduated as valedictorian of the North High School, Class of 1927, the attractive youngster married and divorced Floyd Bannarn, whose family was well-known in the Twin Cities. The son who stands to inherit her wealth was born Jan. 12, 1929, and was named Robert Bannarn.

Subsequently, Mrs. McCoy was married to one Harold Scott, formerly an instructor at Tuskegee Institute, and now teaching in Detroit.

Her marriage to McCoy, who was 11 years her junior, took place in June, 1947, soon after he had done a stint in the Navy and while he was enrolled at the University of Michigan.

He took his law degree this past June at Wayne University. He is the son of Fleetwood McCoy Sr., a prominent Chicago attorney.

Elaborate Idlewild Home

The McCoys, who were well-known along the Eastern Seaboard, maintained an elaborate summer home at Idlewild, Mich., where they spent five months out of the year and frequently traveled on their luxury 52-foot schooner, known as the Lady Geraldine and is said to have cost $20,000.

At the time they were overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning aboard the schooner they were busy preparing for a seven month cruise next month to the Caribbean and South America.

They were known as an ideal couple and went in for outdoor sports, especially boating and skiing.

Subway Porter Leaves Estate Of $60,000

NEWARK, N. J. — An estate valued at between $50,000 and $60,000 was left by Trammer W. Splown, subway porter and bachelor, who died last September. The bulk of the estate, about $40,000, will go to a sister, Mrs. Sysneross Goree, a former Washington school teacher now living in New York.

Thomas Marshall, Jr., a war veteran and tenant in one of Splown's five tenement houses, will inherit the building in which he lives with his mother. The four other buildings will go to a cousin, Marcellis Splown. Other tenants were bequeathed cash sums ranging from $100 to $1,000.

Splown, a bachelor, had worked for the Independent Rapid Transit for 18 years.

Flyer's Estate Now Settled

Captain Tresville's Mother, Wife Share

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The three-year-old legal fight over the $10,000 estate of the late Capt. Robert B. Tresville Jr. has been settled, with his mother receiving one-third of the estate and the wife two-thirds.

Captain Tresville, the sixth West Point graduate (1943), was killed while on a flight mission over Southern Italy on June 23, 1944. Just 23 at the time, he had served as a flyer for 17 months and was slated for promotion to the rank of major in a few days.

The estate represented the National Life Insurance policy which the young officer had taken out, with his mother, Mrs. Irma L. Tresville, as main beneficiary, and his brother, Brittin, as contingent beneficiary.

Wife's Name Not on Policy

His wife, the former Vivien Murphy of this city, whom he married at Elkton, Md., on Jan. 25, 1943, was not named at all on the policy.

As a result, the Veterans Administration, after a thorough investigation, awarded the full insurance premium to his mother in 1946. The mother, a former concert pianist, attempted to effect a settlement and division of the premium with her son's wife.

It was rejected by the younger Mrs. Tresville, who filed suit naming the U.S. Government and her mother-in-law as defendants.

Judge Suggests Settlement

When the trial, held in the U.S Federal District Court here, indicated that things were not going well for the wife, Judge J. T. Knight, aware of the mother's desire to make a settlement, called both parties involved together. The settlement followed.

KIN, FRIENDS TO BENEFIT:

$35-Per-Week Porter Left $100,000 Estate

NEW YORK—When Trammer W. Splown, IRT subway porter, who never earned more than $35 per week in wages in his lifetime, died here, last September, relatives found it difficult to locate a decent suit of clothes in which to bury him.

Yet when the lawyers representing his estate appeared in Manhattan Surrogate Court last Tuesday to confirm his will which they had signed, they disclosed the fact that he had left a fortune of $100,000.

The attorneys, J. Bernard Johnson, and his daughter, Mrs. Bernadine Johnson,, revealed that Splown had left an estimated $40,000 to his sister Mrs. Sysonoress Goree of 454 Grand Concourse NYC. They explained that the bulk of the fortune was in Government bonds and other securities deposited in New York banks.

Generous to Old Friends

Nearly half of the estate, representing properties in Newark, N.J., and cash, was distributed to a cousin Marcellis Splown, old friends and tenants living in an apartment owned by Splown at 11, 13 and 20 Searing St., Newark, and other houses on New and Hous[illegible]sts.

Splown came to Newark from Winchester, Va., in 1914, "dead broke," Mr. Johnson said. The attorney added that Mr. Splown's best job was that of subway porter, and that he did not obtain that post until 1935.

However, from the first, Splown "saved and saved," the attorney contined, stating that he maintained a single room at 11 W. 118th St., a blighted area in New York, for many years.

Saved 75% of Wages

Splown was so frugal, it was said, that he made it a habit to convert 75% of his $140 monthly salary into bonds. The bulk of his gilt-edge securities consisted of American Telephone and Telegraph stock Mr. Johnson revealed.

All during this period, Splown showed no visible signs of wealth, the attorney stated adding that although he had represented him for 15 years he did not know until 1945 that Splown had saved $20 of his $35 weekly salary over a period of years and had invested this money in such a manner that it had tripled in value.

Legal technicalities, Johnson explained, would prevent distribution of the estate until next September. Dual residences, he added, made it necessary to probate the will both in Newark and New York.

$35-a-week subway porter leaves $50,000 estate

NEWARK — A $35-a-week porter on New York's IRT subway amassed an estate of over $50,000, according to his will, filed for probate last week; and he left a large part of it to tenants in five Newark tenements he owned.

The source of his wealth a mystery, Trammer W. Splown, who died last September at the age of 59, left an estate which included $24,500 in U. S. savings bonds, $5,132 in American Telephone and Telegraph stock, $5,165 in Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. stock, cash in banks approximating $10,000, and real property valued at more than $15,000.

The estate, which will be distributed in September, goes to Splown's sister, Mrs. Sysneross Goree, of the Bronx, and a Newark cousin, also to 10 tenants in his five tenements. One tenant, Thomas Marshall, Jr., received a building, while cash bequests were made to the other 9.

Unmarried, Splown always converted 75 percent of his $140-monthly salary to government bonds, it was disclosed. He is believed to have saved money earned during World War I, bought property and made sound investments to accumulate his wealth. His cousin said she had no idea he was so well off. Tenants said he was a "most considerate landlord."

The attorney who filed the will for probate said Splown was "well fixed" 18 years ago when he first came to him to have a will drawn. He said he regarded his client as a "good, commonsense businessman, who owed no one, and there wasn't a five-cent mortgage on any of his property."

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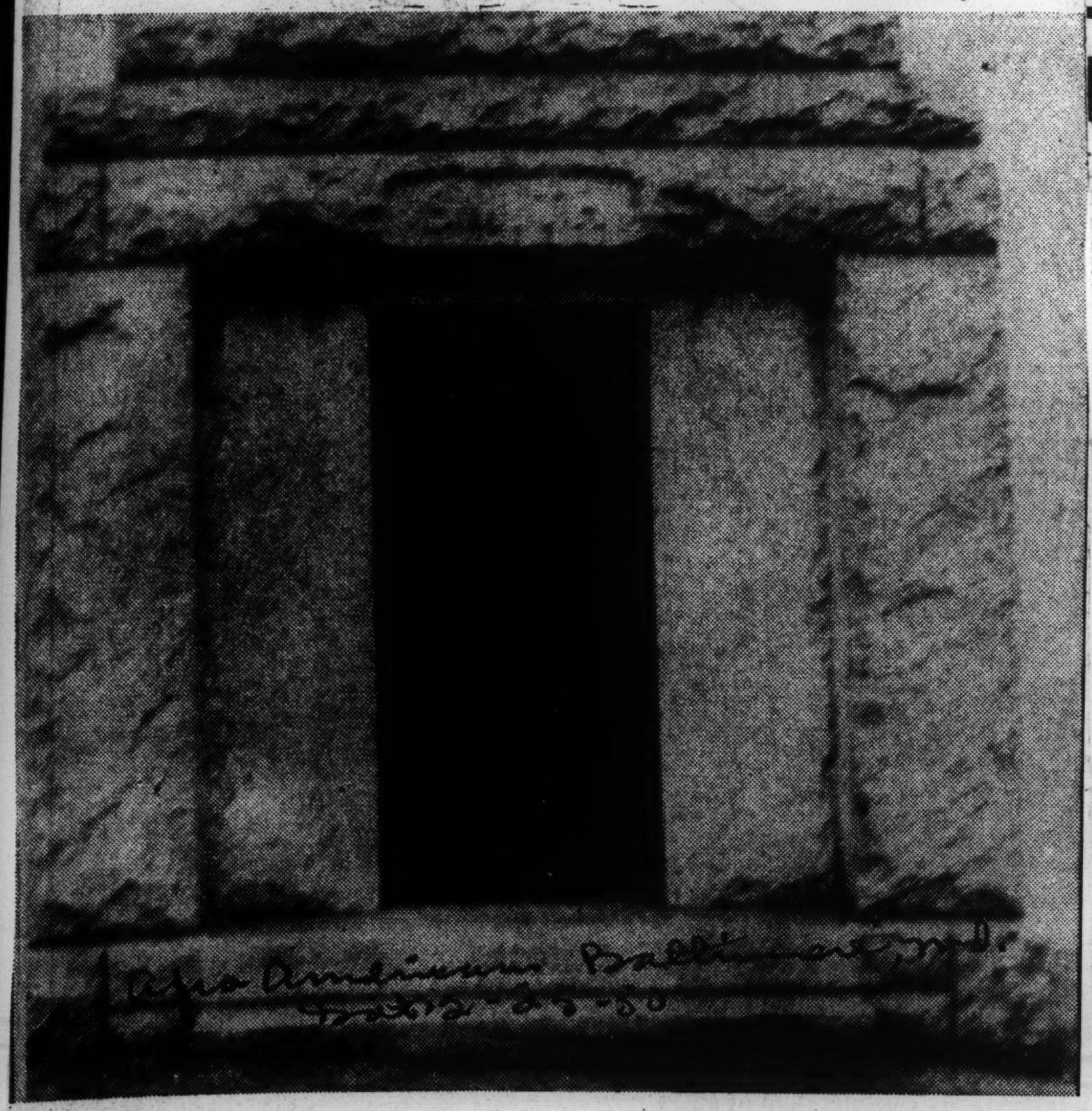
He Arrived Broke, But Now They Call Him the 'Mint'

$8,000 Mausoleum in Winston-Salem Cemetery



The Smith mausoleum, located in the Evergreen Cemetery in Winston-Salem, is said to have cost some $8.000 and can house six bodies.

Saved Money Being 'Careful'

Real Estate Broker Now Worth $100,000

By JOE MAXWELL
Staff Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — A man who came to Winston-Salem in 1891 literally begging is worth over $100,000 today.

He is J. C. Smith, 79, who sometimes is referred to as "tight," but who says the proper word is "careful."

"When you have to work for what you have as hard as I did, you'll learn to be careful," he explained.

Born in Halifax County, Mr. Smith went to Reidsville, N.C., and found that most folks were coming to Winston-Salem to "make a fortune in the factories."

"So I got my toothbrush and headed for Winston-Salem," he recalled. His first job was in the old Bynum and Cotton factory on 4½ St., his next job was at the Reynolds plant where he stayed two years before deciding to go into business for himself.

At first it was the grocery business, and later he ventured into real estate. "I would advise all young people to go into business for themselves, if possible," Mr. Smith said.

Has $40,000 in Bonds

Mr. Smith owns 26 buildings and houses and "I don't owe one bill outside of water, lights, and food," he said, adding: "I buy a $1000 bond a year," displaying $40,000 in Government bonds "the safest investment of all."

Mr. Smith has his 55-year-old son insured for $5,000 (paid out) and has the same amount of insurance on himself. Others in his family include a sister, one grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

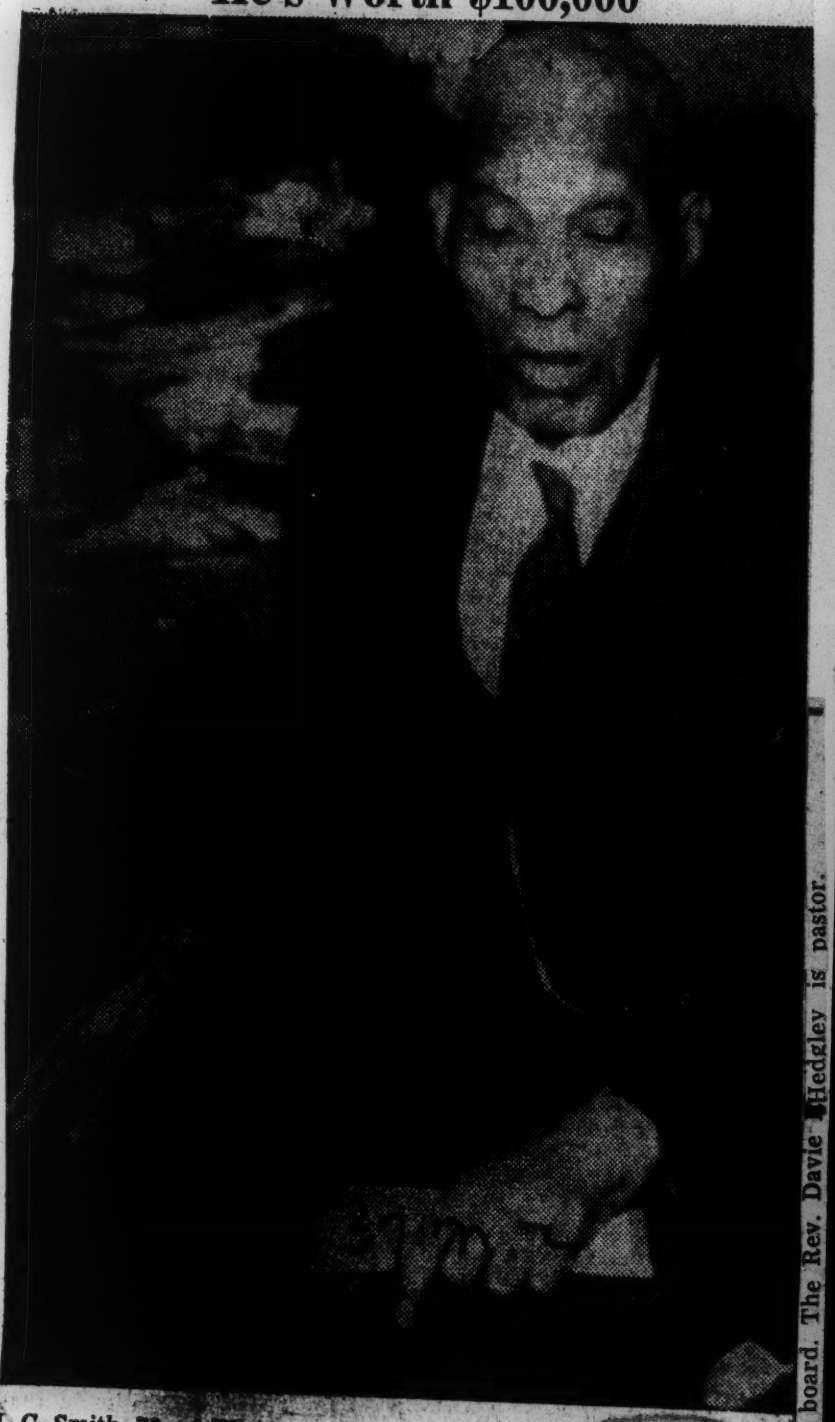
A unique thing about Mr. Smith is that he is cold natured and does not want to be put in the ground upon death; hence he has constructed an $8,000, mausoleum which will hold six persons—three to a side.

The mausoleum was transplanted some three years ago by the city at a cost of some $3,000, the AFRO was told. The reason: the city had all graves removed from the old cemetery to make room for an airport.

All of the graves were moved to the new Evergreen Cemetery. "You can rest assured I am in no hurry to get in it," Mr. Smith said.

'Just Cold-Natured'

He's Worth $100,000



J. C. Smith, 79, of Winston-Salem, N.C., who is reported to have cas... and properties totaling some $100,000.

...aid that the reason ...ave his wife's body ...and put in the mausoleum ...t he did not bury her in a ...asket but now he wishes ...d. He plans to be put in one. ...am just cold natured, that's ..."

A tall, slender good-natured man, he jokes about the mausoleum. "I just happened to be walking through a cemetery one day and saw one and came to the conclusion that I wanted one at all costs."

Mr. Smith, affectionately called "the mint," is a member of the ... deacon and a member of the trustee board. The Rev. Davie Hedgley is pastor.

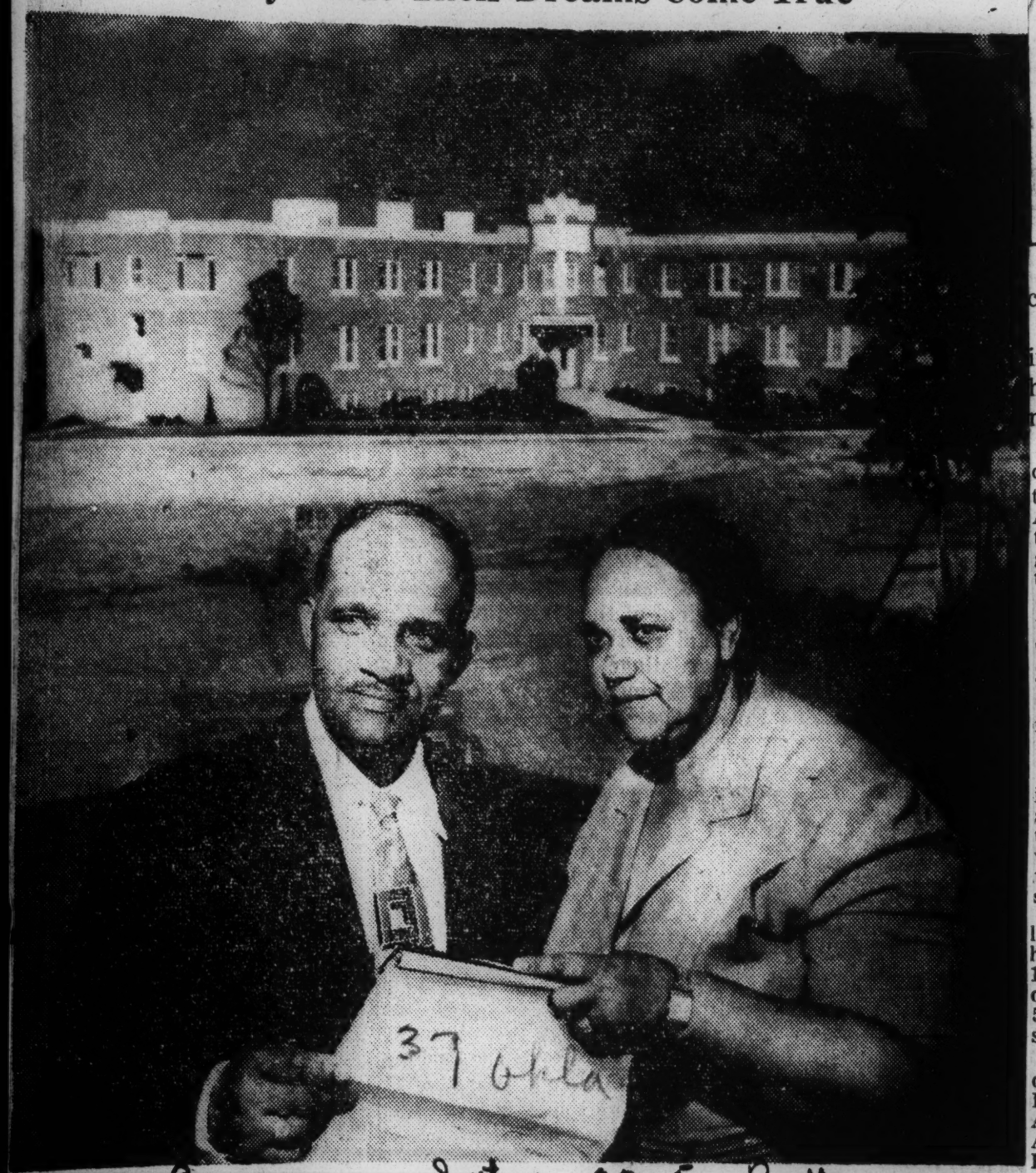
Girl, 23, Wins Estate Of 60Gs

CLEVELAND, O. — The court of appeals ruled here last week that Miss Josephine Houston, 23, was sole heir to the $60,000 estate of the late Alec Harris, plasterer and real estate broker.

Her right to the estate had been disputed by the dead man's relatives because her mother, the late Rose Houston, was the common-law wife of Harris.

Heading the two-year court battle against Miss Houston has been Mrs. Fannie Fitch of New York, a niece of the dead man. Harris' estate includes six large tenement houses.

They Made Their Dreams Come True



The fortune he earned the hard way in the junk business has been put to a useful purpose in Oklahoma City by Walter Edwards, pictured above with his wife. He has endowed this 105-bed hospital and opened its doors to all races. He has also built a development of 500 homes for persons in moderate circumstances. (Photo courtesy, Coronet Magazine)

'PLAIN FOLK' ALSO HAILED:

Our Part in Building Nation Told Pictorially

NEW YORK—Have we found a place in the white man's culture?

The May Coronet magazine pictorial salute to "The Negro in America" observes that "our 15,000,000 colored citizens have written a record—for themselves—of singular achievement."

This magazine observes that the colored people have played a historic role in the development of America as a nation and notes that they have undergone the greatest mass migration in history.

"Moving, however, does not always solve problems. Overcrowded tenements, traffic-jammed streets as playgrounds, inequality of opportunity . . . fill the colored man's urban life with new challenges."

Tells of 'Plain Folks' Too

The story told by the magazine is of educators, jurists, writers and scientists, but it is also of the "just plain folk" who have worked for the betterment of their fellow-man as well as themselves.

There's Walter Edwards of Oklahoma City, who shared his hard-won fortune by endowing a 195-bed hospital for all races, colors and creeds and also built a 500-home development for persons in moderate circumstances.

The picture story salutes such outstanding persons as Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis, Marian Anderson, Willard Motley, Dr. Alain Locke, Judge Francis E. Rivers and Dr. Percy L. Julian.

The magazine concludes that "The colored people of America have accomplished many things. Leaders like Ralph Bunche, of the United Nations forsee a bright future. For the achievements of today are the fertile seeds of tomorrow."

37 1950

South Carolina

Farmer, 85, About to Wed Leaves 127 Acres to Outsider

BENNETTSVILLE, S.C.—Alex Lamb, 85, who died at his home near here Nov. 17, willed 127 acres of valuable farm land to E. W. Breeden, city clerk and treasurer, providing that his white benefactor takes care of the farmer's sister, Mary Sweeney, as long as she lives

Lamb left an estate valued in excess of $40,000, and his property other than that left to the city official, was bequeathed to a nephew and a niece. Nearly $5,000 was found in his safe, reportedly to purchase a Cadillac on Thanksgiving Day when he had planned to marry again.

While working in a bank here some years ago, Mr. Breeden befriended Lamb in his business transactions, making out his checks, etc. Mr. Breeden's father before him also had befriended the farmer.

Rests in Imposing Monument

Fabulous Millionaire, William McDonald, 84, Buried in Fort Worth

(From Pittsburgh Courier Press Service)

FORT WORTH, Tex.—They buried fabulous William (Gooseneck Bill) McDonald here Sunday evening beneath a tall, imposing monument in Trinity Cemetery. McDonald, the nation's richest Negro, had built that monument himself several years ago, but it was not until last Wednesday night that the Grim Reaper called on him to use it.

The 84-year-old banker, politician and fraternalist who rose from houseboy to become one of the most powerful and richest figures in the great Southwest, died at his luxurious home after a twenty-eight-month illness which had kept him confined to bed. His 32-year-old wife, Mrs. Mary Pearl McDonald, was at his side when he died.

His career was truly fabulous.

Born of slave parents in Kaufman County, Texas, in 1876, he became principal of the largest Negro school in his county after finishing a three-year high school course. During that period Capt. Jed Adams, head of a Kaufman law firm, taught him law in the afternoons and sent him to school in Nashville, Tenn.

That was when "Gooseneck Bill" really began his fabulous career. When he was a mere 20 years old he formed an association with Col. E. H. R. Green, son of the equally fabulous Mrs. Hetty Green, eccentric New York multi-millionairess.

That contact launched him on the road to riches.

Colonel Green paid Mr. McDonald $575 a month as his personal guide and the pair embarked on a joint political adventure which changed the picture of the entire state of Texas.

When it ended, "Gooseneck Bill" had amassed tremendous wealth, had his own bank, owned real estate across the entire country, with large holdings in New York and Chicago, had been grand secretary of the F. A. and A. Masons of Texas for sixty years, and earned for himself the title "Kingmaker."

Even after he retired from active operations in 1948, his tremendous national influence was still felt. Just a year ago this month, Horace Sudduth, president of the National Negro Business League, had come to Fort Worth to discuss the probable underwriting of the proposed new $50,000 NNBL Building in Washington, D. C. That building was to stand as a shrine to the name of Mr. McDonald.

When he and Colonel Green decided to take over the Republican banks in Texas, McDonald's sagacity made him Texas campaign manager for Republican office seekers for many years.

They turned the political tide in Texas into a landslide for the GOP. Operating on a "black and tan" platform, they controlled the Texas GOP from 1896 until 1912, surviving many storms. At the turn of the century all Texas Negroes voted the Republican ticket.

'LILY-WHITES' MOVED IN

Came 1912 and Woodrow Wilson ascended to power with the Democrats. It was then that things began to change in Texas, and McDonald's political fortunes went on the decline. "Lily-whites," headed by Col. R. B. Creager, of Brownsville, defeated his faction about that time and McDonald never staged a political comeback.

Instead, he devoted more and more of his energy to his fraternal and business interests and they began to grow still more. So extensive were his holdings that he once told a Courier reporter: "I have never seen much of the property that I own."

HAD SOUND BANK

After his political defeat, McDonald came to Fort Worth, where he founded the Fraternal Bank and Trust Company. That bank became one of the strongest in Texas, and when banks around the nation were crashing in the 1933 moratorium, McDonald's bank was as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. It was the depository for all the state's Negro Masonic lodges.

He earned the title "Kingmaker" during his political heyday with Colonel Green. "The Colonel didn't know anymore about politics than a young girl," McDonald once told friends. "I made him chairman of the Republican State Committee in 1904." He was one of the most eloquent orators ever to grace a platform and so effective were his platform appearances that at one state convention he was carried to the rostrum on the shoulders of white Republicans.

He was married several times during his career, each time choosing as his companion a mate who was much his junior.

More than fifty years ago Mr. McDonald married into the prominent Jones family of Kaufman County. He was also married at one time to Mrs. O. J. Cansler, former Courier bureau chief in Dallas, Tex. It was understood that Mr. McDonald worked out financial pacts with his wives under which they would receive a stipulated sum in case of divorce.

Funeral rites were held from Mount Pisgah Baptist Church, Sunday afternoon. The Rev. S. R. Prince officiated and the church was thronged with outstanding dignitaries from all parts of the country. Hundreds of telegrams of condolences were received.

TYPICAL DEAL

Typical of his business manipulations was his ownership of many properties occupied by whites. The old Oddfellows Building in Houston, Tex., was a good example. When that organization folded and its downtown building passed into the hands of whites, the sage of Kaufman County purchased it, and at his death it was known as the McDonald Building. He never saw the building, but considered its purchase one of the most satisfactory deals he had ever made.

In addition to his widow, he is survived by a niece, Mrs. Lula Kennard of Chicago. She had been at his bedside for some time, recently returning to Chicago. The late banker had only one son, and he was killed in an accident thirty years ago.

Contents of Mr. McDonald's will have not been revealed yet. It will probably be probated in a few weeks.

3 Changes Noted In Will Left By Bill McDonald

By JAMES B. LaFOURCHE and LUCIUS L. JONES

FORT WORTH, Tex.—Recriminations which may well reach the high heavens are expected to be unleashed here as soon as an inventory of the estate of the late William Madison (Gooseneck Bill) McDonald has been made known.

McDonald, a powerful factor in Texas Republican party politics from 1896 to 1912, died July 4, in his pal tial home here. He had been ill more than two years.

At the time of his death, "Gooseneck Bill" was living with his fifth wife, the former Miss May Pearl Grayson, 32. They were married approximately ten years.

FILED FOR PROBATE

McDonald's will, filed for probate July 10, has all the semblance of a Chinese puzzle, and particularly so, because of the three added codicils.

The will, dated Jan. 4, 1947, showed McDonald to be the type of man grateful for all kindness extended him by his friends.

Among those whom he had chosen to bequeath most gratuities were his niece, Mrs. Lula Kennard, who was to receive Chicago real estate and an additional $30,000 in cash; Mrs. Zalee Payne, $10,000, his personal secretary for more than twenty years, whom he said was "faithful, honest and trustworthy"; Mrs. Katherine Bailey, $2,500; the Rev. S. R. Prince and H. J. Mitchell, $1,000 each; I. P. Anderson, bank cashier, $5,000; Mrs. Z. D. Collins, bookkeeper, $5,000, and Dorsey Adams, certain fraternal jewelry. The remainder of the estate was willed to his widow.

CODICIL NUMBER ONE

July 19, 1948, Codicil No. 1 was added to the original will, the deceased giving the following reason: "I am aware that my estate will be indebted and will have large taxes to bear, and may be pressed for ready cash; reduce some of the requests made in the original will."

Other certain changes were made which resulted in the cash benefits being reduced as follows:

BILL McDONALD
. . . three changes

Mrs. Payne, bequest reduced from $10,000 to $5,000; Mrs. Bailey, $2,500 to $250; Messrs Prince and Mitchell, $1,000 each to $250; Mr. Anderson, $5,000 to $50; Mrs. Collins, $5,000 to $500. Gifts for Mrs. Kennard remained the same.

CODICIL NUMBER TWO

The second codicil, dated Feb. 16, 1949, virtually revoked everything contained in the original will and the subsequent first codicil with the exception of the mentioned gifts to Mrs. Kennard. It gave to the McDonald widow the remainder of the estate.

CODICIL NUMBER THREE

The third and final of the three codicils, dated Jan. 14, 1950, revoked the $30,000 cash originally bequeathed to Mrs. Kennard, leaving to her only the Chicago real estate.

Noted Virginia Dentist Left Estate of $43,000

RICHMOND

Dr. Leon A. Reid, dentist, banker, political, civic and fraternal leader who died at his home here Aug. 29 leaving an estate appraised at $43,246.82, died intestate, according to records in Chancery Court, where his wife and a son qualified as administrators.

Nearly two thirds of the estate, $25,256.82, was in personal property, the balance of $17,990 being in real estate. The wife, Mrs. Minnie Ferguson Reid, and son, Leon A. Jr., qualified as administrators and were bonded in the Ferguson Reid, and a daughter, sum of $26,000.

Beneficiaries are listed as the wife, two sons, Leon A. Jr., and Mrs. Alice Reid Calloway, wife of Dr. William C. Calloway, all of this city. One of the sons, a dentist, was associated with his father, while the other is a physician.

Appraisal of the estate, believed to be extremely conservative, was made by Madison M. Jones, William W. Jones, David C. Deans, S. W. Robinson Jr., and Charles T. Russell.

Dr. Reid, a leader for the past 25 years, died unexpectedly at his home, 110 E. Leigh St., after several months of illness. He had spent some time in a Washington hospital and had shown signs of some improvement.

He was vice-president and vice-chairman of the board of Consolidated Bank and Trust Company, member of the board of Southern Aid Insurance Company and of the Binga Community Center and a member of Astoria Beneficial Club and Williams Lodge of Elks.

Dr. Reid was past president of the National Dental Association, member of the P. B. Ramsey Dental Society and vice-president of the Richmond Civic Council.